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Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

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DIRECTORATE OF PLANS

EXO DDI

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

CITE

DIST 28 OCTOBER 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM
DOI 17 OCTOBER 1972
SUBJECT ESTABLISHMENT OF MASS ANTI-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION TO
COUNTER VIET CONG ACTIVITY IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE
DURING CEASE-FIRE.

ACQ VIETNAM, CAN THO (25 OCTOBER 1972) FIELD NO.

[REDACTED]

SUMMARY: ON 17 OCTOBER 1972, BAC LIEU PROVINCE CHIEF COLONEL NGUYEN NGOC DIEP ASKED BAC LIEU PROVINCE CHIEU HOI SERVICE CHIEF TRAN NGOC AN TO DRAW UP ON A PRIORITY BASIS A PLAN FOR THE FORMATION OF A MASS ORGANIZATION FOR BAC LIEU

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PROVINCE NAMED "PEOPLE'S ANTI-COMMUNIST COMMITTEE FOR SELF-DEFENSE" (PACCSO). THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO ORGANIZE THE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE IN ORDER TO CONTROL THEM MORE EFFECTIVELY AND TO NEUTRALIZE VIET CONG TERRORISM DURING A CEASE-FIRE. THE PLAN PROVIDES FOR A STANDING COMMITTEE IN BAC LIEU CITY AND SUBORDINATE COMMITTEES AT THE DISTRICT, VILLAGE AND HAMLET LEVEL. IN THE HAMLETS THE PEOPLE WILL BE ORGANIZED IN GROUPS OF THREE FAMILIES WITH EACH THREE-FAMILY UNIT PROVIDED WITH A WEAPON. EACH OF THE THREE FAMILIES SHARES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WEAPON. OLDER MEN IN THE HAMLETS WILL BE ORGANIZED INTO WATCHMAN GROUPS AND THE HAMLET PROGRAMS WILL BE MESHED WITH THE PEOPLE'S SELF-DEFENSE FORCE UNITS, WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY OUTSIDE OF THE HAMLETS. COLONEL DIEP WILL PROBABLY ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF THE PACCSO IN EARLY NOVEMBER, POSSIBLY ON VIETNAM'S NATIONAL DAY ON 1 NOVEMBER. WHEN THE PACCSO IS FULLY ESTABLISHED, A MASS RALLY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE WILL BE HELD IN BAC LIEU CITY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON 17 OCTOBER 1972, BAC LIEU PROVINCE CHIEF COLONEL

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NGUYEN NGOC D I E P MET WITH THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE CHIEU HOI SERVICE CHIEF TRAN NGOC A N AND DIRECTED HIM TO DRAW UP A PLAN FOR THE FORMATION OF A MASS ORGANIZATION FOR THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE TO BE CALLED THE "PEOPLE'S ANTI-COMMUNIST COMMITTEE FOR SELF-DEFENSE" (PACCSO). DIEP SAID HE WAS ESTABLISHING SUCH AN ORGANIZATION IN RESPONSE TO AN ORDER FROM SAIGON. THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO ORGANIZE THE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE IN ORDER TO CONTROL THEM MORE EFFECTIVELY AND TO NEUTRALIZE VIET CONG (VC) ACTIVITY DURING A CEASE-FIRE. HE TOLD AN TO COMPLETE THE PLAN WITHIN A WEEK SO THAT IT COULD BE ANNOUNCED EARLY IN NOVEMBER, POSSIBLY ON 1 NOVEMBER, VIETNAM'S NATIONAL DAY. DIEP AGREED TO AN'S SUGGESTION THAT AN NOT HAVE ANY OFFICIAL CONNECTION WITH THE NEW ORGANIZATION, BUT THAT HE WOULD GUIDE ITS ACTIVITIES BEHIND THE SCENES, AT LEAST DURING ITS EARLY DAYS. DIEP ALSO ENDORSED AN'S RECOMMENDATION THAT IN MOST CASES ONLY NON-GOVERNMENT INDIVIDUALS AND "NEW FACES" BE INCLUDED IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION.

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2. AN'S PLAN FOR ORGANIZATION OF THE PACCSO PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDING COMMITTEE AT THE PROVINCE LEVEL CONSISTING OF 14 COMMISSIONERS INCLUDING THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE COUNCIL, TWO OF THE THREE LOWER HOUSE MEMBERS FROM BAC LIEU PROVINCE, PLUS A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH OF THE FIVE MAJOR RELIGIONS OF BAC LIEU--BUDDHIST, CAO DAI, CATHOLIC, HOA HAO AND TINH-DO CU-SI.

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3. AFTER THE PROVINCE COMMISSIONERS ARE APPOINTED THEY WILL ELECT A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FROM AMONG THEMSELVES AND ESTABLISH A SMALL OFFICE IN BAC LIEU CITY. THE COMMISSIONERS WILL THEN FORM INTO TEAMS WHICH WILL PROCEED TO VINH LOI, VINH CHAU, GIA RAI AND PHUOC LONG DISTRICTS OF THE PROVINCE TO ORGANIZE MASS MEETINGS WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE ELECTION OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND THE FORMATION OF DISTRICT LEVEL PACCSO COMMITTEES. THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES WILL CONSIST OF 10

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COMMISSIONERS INCLUDING PROVINCE COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED FROM THE PARTICULAR DISTRICT, "WORKERS" REPRESENTATIVES AND OLDER MEN WITH GOOD REPUTATIONS. THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS WILL IN TURN VISIT THE VILLAGE AND HAMLET AREAS AND IN A SIMILAR FASHION ESTABLISH LOCAL PACCSO COMMITTEES. AN SAID THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE CANDIDATES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SELECTED BUT THE NAMES WILL BE PRESENTED TO DISTRICT MASS MEETINGS IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO PERSUADE THE PEOPLE THAT THE CANDIDATES ARE BEING CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES RATHER THAN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

4. AT THE HAMLET LEVEL, THE PEOPLE WILL BE ORGANIZED INTO GROUPS OF THREE FAMILIES. ONE WEAPON WILL BE ISSUED TO EACH THREE-FAMILY UNIT AND ITS USE AND ACCOUNTABILITY WILL BE A JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE THE THREE FAMILIES. OLDER MEN IN THE HAMLETS WILL BE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION BY THE HAMLET COMMITTEE MEMBERS. THEY WILL BE ARMED WITH KNIVES, CLUBS AND LOUDSPEAKERS AND FORMED INTO WATCHMAN GROUPS TO WARN OF VC INFILTRATION ACTIVITIES. THE PACCSO ORGANIZATION AT THE HAMLET LEVEL WILL BE SUPPORTED BY ARMED PEOPLE'S SELF-DEFENSE (PSDF) UNITS THROUGH SEARCH AND PATROL ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THE HAMLET PERIMETERS TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

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THE PACCSO ORGANIZATION WILL BE EXPECTED TO WORK WITHIN THE HAMLET PROPER IN ORDER TO THWART ANY VC ATTEMPTS TO TAKE OVER AND ADMINISTER HAMLETS DURING A CEASE-FIRE. THE PROVINCE CURRENTLY HAS ENOUGH SMALL ARMS AVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN TO ISSUE ONE WEAPON TO EACH THREE-FAMILY UNIT. THE WEAPONS WILL NOT BE ISSUED, HOWEVER, UNTIL THE PACCSO PROVINCE COMMITTEE IS SATISFIED THAT THE HAMLET COMMITTEES ARE SUFFICIENTLY ORGANIZED TO GUARANTEE THAT THE WEAPONS WILL NOT END UP IN THE HANDS OF THE VC.

5. AFTER THE PACCSO IS ORGANIZED AT ALL LEVELS DOWN TO THE HAMLET, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVINCE COMMITTEE WILL ARRANGE A GENERAL CONVENTION AND MASS MEETING IN BAC LIEU CITY TO BE ATTENDED BY COMMISSIONERS FROM ALL LEVELS. IN AN'S VIEW, IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT A LARGE PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION MAY GROW OUT OF THE CONVENTION ACTIVITIES.

6. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY MACV 7TH AIR FORCE AT SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC ARPAC FACFLT PACAF PARIS.

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T
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